

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown below:

Please delete paragraph [0026] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0026] Figure 3 is a diagram showing the sequence region from MVP5180 gp41, expressed in the recombinant plasmid pSEM 41/3-III, in comparison with the corresponding sequence of the HIV-1 isolate ARV-2. (SEQ ID NOS ~~2-7, 10 and 11 are shown in this Figure: 10-11, 5-7 & 2-4, respectively, in order of appearance.~~)

Please delete paragraph [0040] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0040] “Consecutive amino acid sequences” are understood by the skilled artisan to mean fragments. In the most preferred embodiment, the peptides comprise consecutive amino acids selected from the sequence (residues 10-42 of SEQ ID NO:1)
RLQALETLIQNQQRLNLWGXXGKGLIXYTSVKWN.

Please delete paragraph [0042] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0042] If the above amino acid sequence is depicted in the so called three-letter code, the following sequence is obtained (SEQ ID NO:1):

Val Trp Gly Ile Arg Gln Leu Arg Ala Arg Leu Gln Ala Leu

Glu Thr Leu Ile Gln Asn Gln Gln Arg Leu Asn Leu Trp Gly

X Lys Gly Lys Leu Ile X Tyr Thr Ser Val Lys Trp Asn Thr

~~Glu Thr Leu Ile Gln Asn Gln Gln Arg Leu Asn Leu Trp Gly~~

~~X Lys Gly Lys Leu Ile X Tyr Thr Ser Val Lys Trp Asn Thr~~

Ser Trp Ser Gly Arg,

where X is Cys or Ser.

Please delete paragraph [0044] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0044] The present inventors have discovered that an epitope of MVP5180/91, which is of principal relevance for diagnosis is located in the region XKGKLIX (residues 29-35 of SEQ ID NO:1). Therefore, it is preferable that the peptide of the present invention contain a region having this amino acid sequence.